



The Gamecock

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

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Stores pull sauce for wrong reasons

The controversy surrounding Maurice Bessinger's views on the Confederate flag and the slavery-condoning tracts he sells in his restaurants has led several local supermarkets to pull Maurice's barbecue sauce from their shelves.

While *The Gamecock* in no way endorses Bessinger's views, we do believe the supermarkets that have pulled Bessinger's sauce have done so for the wrong reasons.

Stores have carried the popular sauce on their shelves for many years, even while Maurice has held the same opinions he does now. Back in 1976, the Supreme Court had to step in and force Bessinger to serve African-Americans at his restaurants. But only now that Bessinger's views have become public controversy once again have stores such as Bi-Lo, Wal-Mart and Food Lion chosen to ban his sauce.

Given the timing of these stores' moves, it seems only logical that the stores are pulling the sauce not necessarily because they disagree vehemently with Bessinger, but rather to avoid losing customers who find his now-public views objectionable. If customers don't like Bessinger's opinions, they should have the right to decide whether they want to buy his sauce — supermarkets shouldn't make that decision for consumers just to get good PR.

To ban Bessinger's sauce is to say that corporate America, in its everlasting quest to turn a constant profit, is perfectly justified in punishing someone for his opinion. The stores should recognize Bessinger's right to an opinion and consumers' rights to choose whether they agree with that opinion, and restore Maurice's sauce to their shelves.

Channel 51 has new lease on life

Unfortunately for the vast majority of Carolina fans, the USC-Alabama game was only available on pay-per-view television. Equally unfortunate was the fact that on-campus students did not have the option of purchasing the game.

WRHA should take the initiative and broadcast all Carolina games that are not being televised by regular networks. Home and away games should be televised for students. Why not?

WRHA currently has a channel that serves no useful purpose and could easily be used to broadcast games. Channel 51 broadcasts 24 hours a day, seven days a week from the top of the School of Law. Hopefully, avid watchers of this channel will not mind if WRHA broadcasts all Carolina games that are not being broadcast by network stations.

This would be a great service to Carolina students and would make Channel 51 must-see TV.

ABOUT US

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Letters to the editor or guest columns are welcome from all members of the Carolina community. Letters should be 250-300 words. Guest columns should be an opinion piece of about 600 words.

Both must include name, phone number, professional title or year and major, if a student. Handwritten submissions must be personally delivered to Russell House room 333. E-mail submissions must include telephone number for confirmation and should be sent to gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com.

The Gamecock reserves the right to edit for libel, style and space. Anonymous letters will not be published. Photos are required for guest columnist and can be provided by the submitter.

Call 777-7726 for more information.

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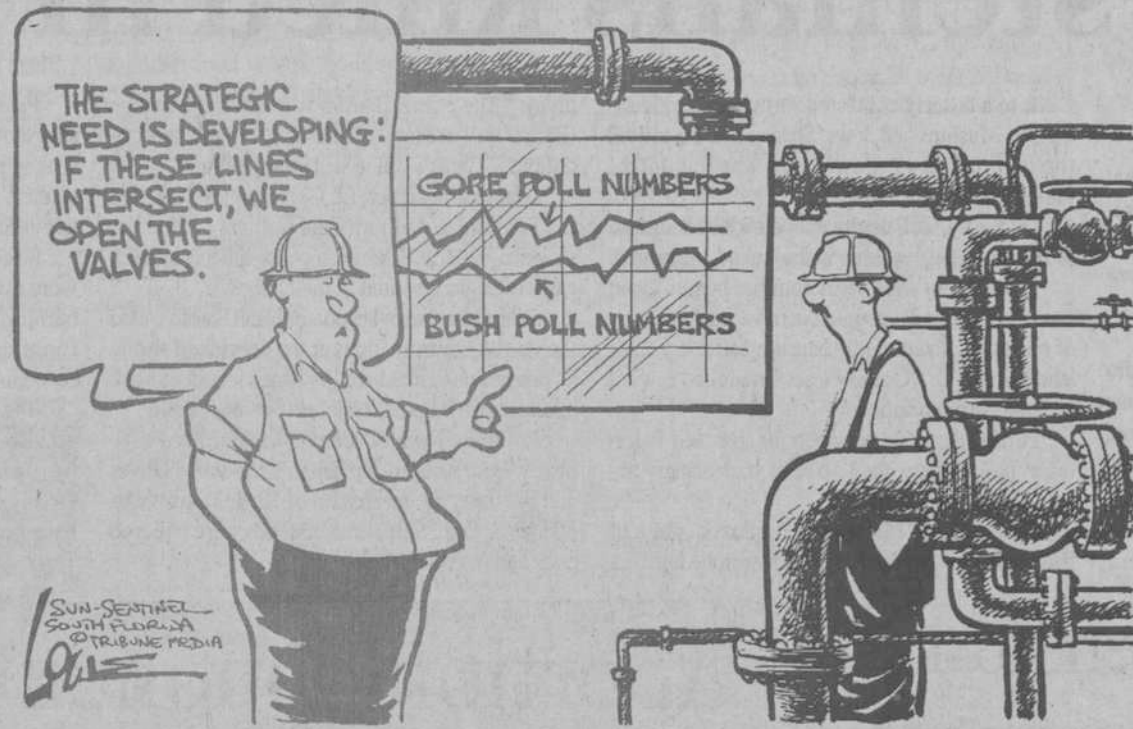
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2000 OLYMPIC GAMES

Let the corporate games begin

The 2000 Olympic Games have come to a close. Of course, reflection on the games is prudent. As I write this column, I am reminded of the Visa commercial with the synchronized swimmers forming the word "VISA."



Nathan White writes every Monday. He can be reached at gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com

Before they do this, a narrator discusses the overcommercialization of the Games and how it is necessary to marvel at the inherent beauty of the Games. What beauty?

The Olympics today do not represent anything more than the corporate takeover of America and the world it dominates. Let's look at the sponsors: Coca-Cola and McDonald's are official sponsors of the Games.

Go down to Sydney and see how many athletes include Cokes and Big Macs in their diets. There are other sponsors like Nike, an official Olympic supporter and owner of the United States Olympic Team (they don't actually own the team, just their souls).

Some athletes are realizing the fallacy the Olympics really are. Kaliya Young, a three time All-American at UC-Berkeley gave up a year of school to try out for the Canadian National

Water Polo Team. That was until she realized that all of her hard work, dedication and sacrifice were going to fill up the corporate coffers. She quit her Olympic ambitions and went back to school.

The Olympics are supposed to be the triumph over mind and body in the pursuit of physical excellence. That may have been true in the past, but now it's more about the technological improvements in equipment and gear in the pursuit of corporate excellence.

Look at the new Speedo suits debuting in the Sydney Games. Or those new speed skates at Nagano. The records are falling. Are they falling because of physical excellence or is it technological excellence?

The beauty of the games is gone. The moment is over, just like the narrator in the Visa commercial says. It is time for the games to return back to the traditions of antiquity to revive them.

When the games began in 776 B.C., they were a religious festival honoring Zeus. Athletes trained for months and were reviewed by a panel that assessed their physical endowments, etc. Olympic athletes competed in the nude and no records were kept. The winners were given an olive branch (its vitality was transmitted to the recipient), gave public thanks to Zeus and returned home as victors.

One event in the ancient games that depended upon technology was the chariot races. The difference between now and then was that the owner of the chariot was the winner of the race instead of the chariot rider.

If that were the case today, the medal count would be between Speedo and Nike and other corporations instead of between nations.

We need to return to the ancient traditions. Equestrian events today are full of pomp and splendor. In ancient Greece, horse riders rode naked and bare back. There are some traditions that we may not want to incorporate, though. In Greece, only virgins could watch and women could not participate in the Games. I say let them compete, but they have to be naked, too.

The simplicity of the ancient games is desperately needed to restore the greatness of the modern Olympics. If not, these modern Games will become a farce like the ancient games became when the Roman Emperor Nero came to power. By then, it was slaves competing for their lives against wild animals instead of free men competing against one another for glory. Today, we are all slaves — spectator and competitor alike — of the corporate empire.

LETTERS

African-American doesn't necessarily mean Democrat

To the Editor:

I agree with Corey Ford's statement that the minority vote is needed — but I would like to extrapolate his idea and comment on his theory behind it.

First of all, everyone needs to become informed and then vote. It does not matter what one's race is — voting should not be overlooked.

Secondly and more importantly, I find Mr. Ford's implied assertion that an African-American vote is a Democratic vote to be quite assumptive and untrue. Does he then mean a white vote is automatically a Republican vote? (I think Gov. Jim Hodges would quickly disagree!)

Like Mr. Ford, I encourage blacks and whites (and all shades in between) to look at the candidates without bias. Once that is done, then people should ask themselves the following questions:

1. "Which one offers me the chance to make something of myself if I work for it?"
2. "Which one is willing to let me

keep more of my hard-earned money and let me decide how to invest it and use it to my benefit?"

3. "Which one does not wish to keep me dependent on handouts?"

4. "Which one will let me raise my family the way I would like?"

5. I believe that once these questions are truthfully answered, Mr. Ford's assumption of where certain votes are going will be wrong.

Darin L. Passer
School of Medicine
Class of 2004

Preston open to all residents, not just privileged ones

To the Editor,

In response to the editorial in the Sept. 25 edition of *The Gamecock* entitled "Preston College should be open to all students," I launch the following retaliation:

Preston College has received the bad end of the proverbial stick much too often. How much longer will the ignorant

remain uninformed?

The Gamecock has been host to many instances of so-called journalists shelling out — to simply put it — lies. The latest instance of ignorance was the misunderstanding of Preston not being open to all students.

Well, if you were to do some investigating, you would know that Preston is open to all students. Unfortunately, you have to put effort into filling out an application to reside in this "experiment." Some people go to the extent of tracing their hand on the back of the Preston application.

And the dining facilities that are frequently conversed about within these pages are completely misunderstood. The food served is the same from the GMP. Does it sound all that much better now?

If it does, let Sodexo-Marriott know so you can pay more for reheated cod or turkey supreme. So if you want to label us as "special," it's only because we had "motivation" and "effort."

So, please have your "weekend journalists" know something of the subject before they write anything.

Richard De Leon
Public Relations Junior

ELECTION 2000

Killing me softly with his views

This week, America's most active serial killer struck again. His name is George W. Bush, and his title is governor, but this is a matter of chance — that he has a title that he was born into a long line of politicians. What makes George W. Bush different from people who kill for money or sex? Is he morally just because he murders to win the bid for the presidency, as an antidote to the allegedly soft-on-crime Democrats? I've said repeatedly, in conversations to my friends and family, that Al Gore will lose because, like Bush, he believes in the death penalty, and will not attack Bush's blood-spattered record. As much as I dislike Gore, I respect this move — the only of his career — for his own integrity.



Jennie Lightweis is a senior English major. She writes every Monday. She can be reached at gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com

After a stay of execution to allow for DNA testing, Ricky McGinn was executed for the 1993 rape and murder of his 12-year-old stepdaughter. Salon.com and other news servers are calling the stay of execution "unprecedented" because it is that — it is one of the few times Bush had granted a stay. (No such mercy was extended to Karla Fay Tucker, a convicted murderer, who, like Bush, found Jesus in her darkest hour.) Repeatedly, Bush has denied stays of execution with appeals to further DNA testing and has also asserted that there is no way an innocent person could have been put to death in the state of Texas. With similar fuzzy logic, he calls the death penalty a deterrent, though any informed political scientist would probably tell him otherwise — and one need only point to our more liberated Canadian and English allies to suggest that the "deterrent" theory is erroneous.

In 1997, Bush set an execution record 37 dead in one year. With October, November, and December left, he needs four more sacrifices to beat his own record. I'm sure his constituents are cheering for him. And for those who are keeping track, an annual body count of 33 out-numbers both Jeffrey Dahmer and Ted Bundy. So, the blood-thirsty governor is clearly an under-achiever.

The Bushes carpetbagged to the state of Texas, but that hasn't stopped George W. Bush from appearing in a pair of cowboy boots with the Lone Star flag emblazoned on them, and it hasn't stopped him from enacting vigilante justice in the style of the original Texas Rangers. Indubitably, he is attempting to mime that folk heroic quality of the hanging judges of the Old West.

I prefer the other kinds of heroes — like the man who lost his daughter in the Oklahoma City bombing, and testified on behalf of Timothy McVeigh at his trial, begging the jury to let him live. "If I'm ever going to forgive him," he said, "I need him to be alive." Equally heroic are anti-death penalty activist Suzanne Bosler, who continues her crusade despite her father's brutal murder and the organization Not In Our Name, a group of families who have lost loved ones to violent crimes, and demand that their murderers not be put to death. Also noble are the men and women of the American Civil Liberties Union's Prison Project, which uses statistical analysis to prove what many people have always known — that the death penalty is racist and classist in its application, with crimes against Caucasian victims punished far more harshly than those with minority victims.

These are the sort of people who have risen above the worst possible circumstances, yet maintain their desire for real justice. They suffer a grief so profound that I could never put words to it — and they forgive and persevere. And, unlike George W. Bush, they have no blood on their hands.

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